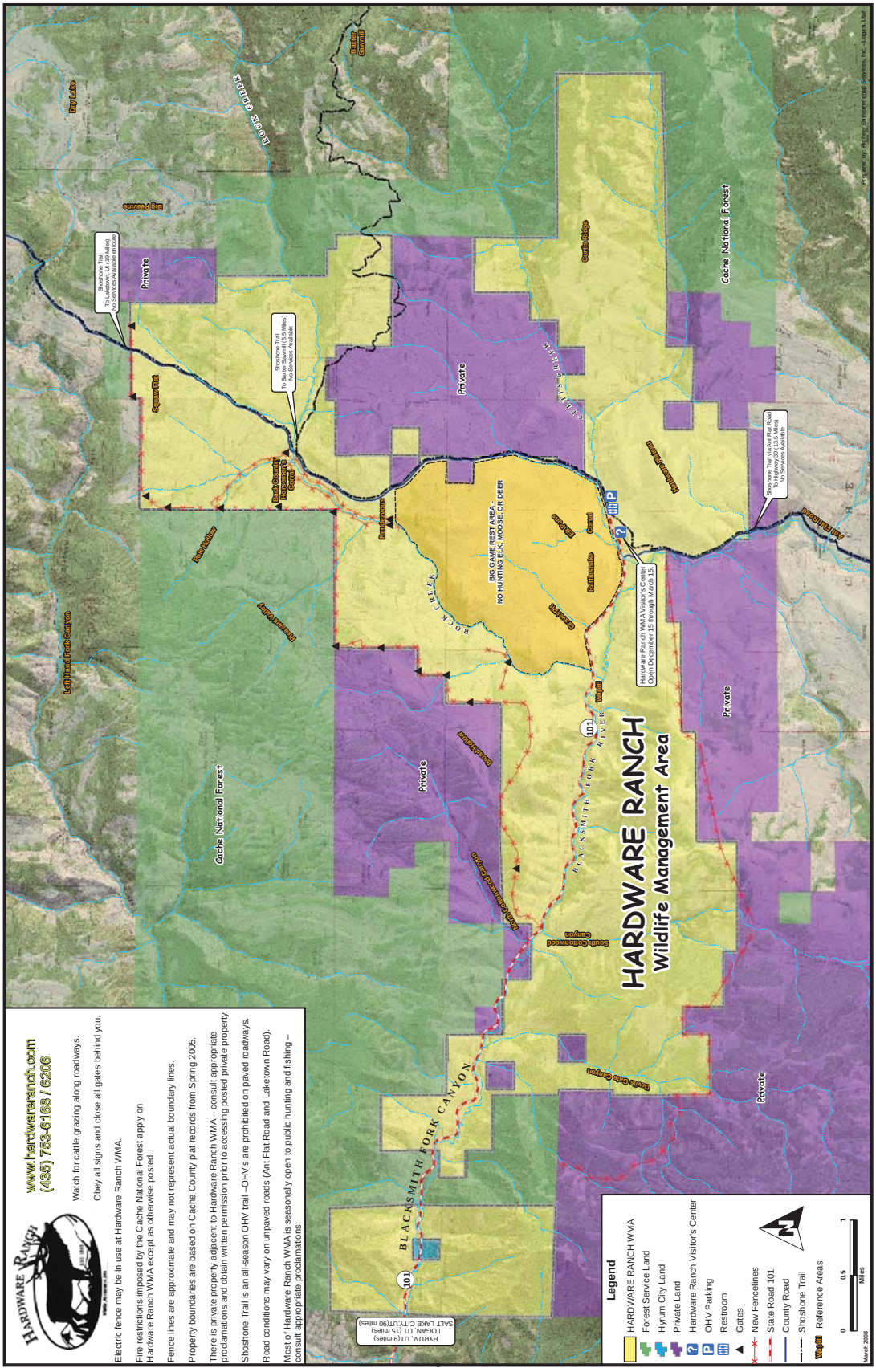
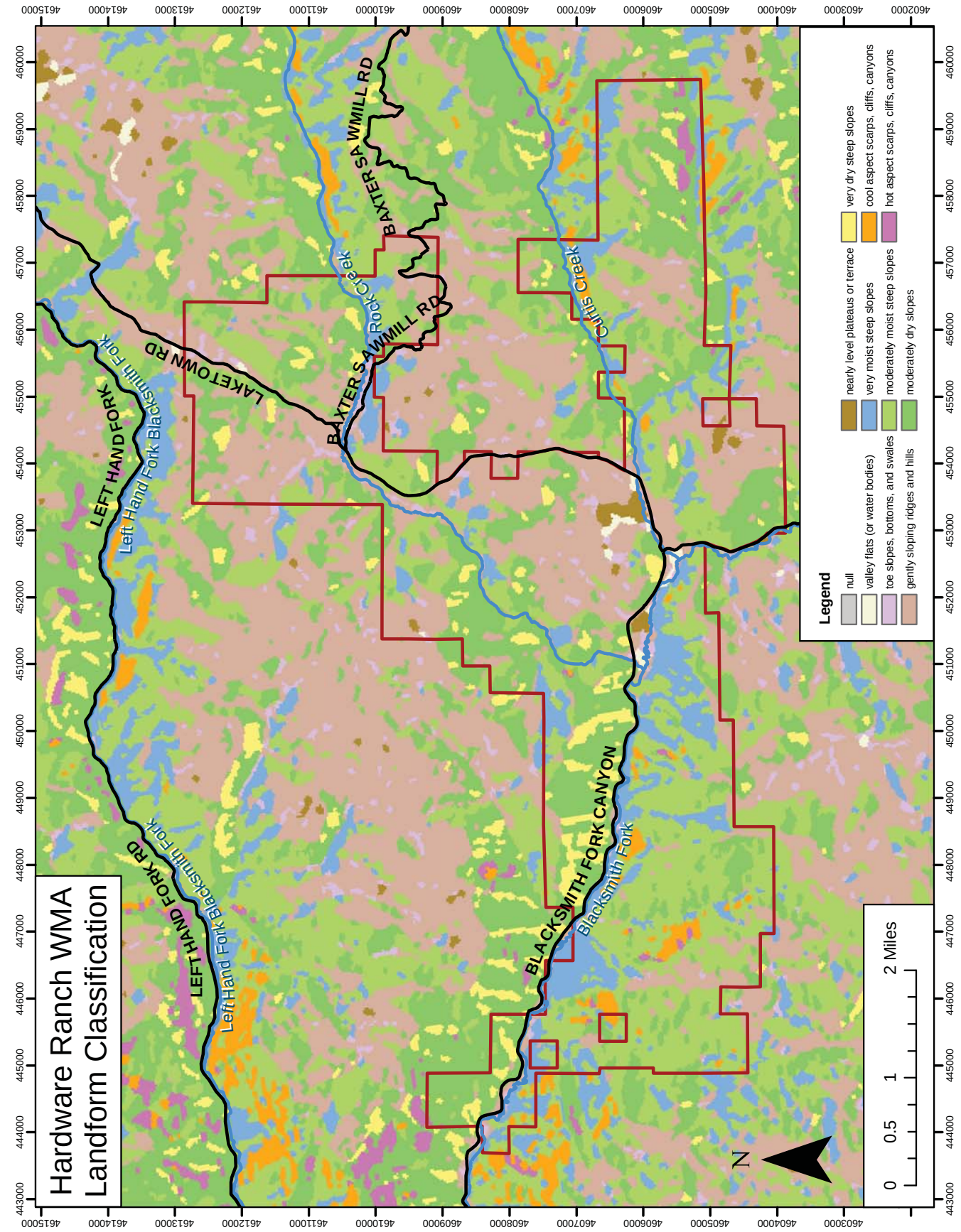
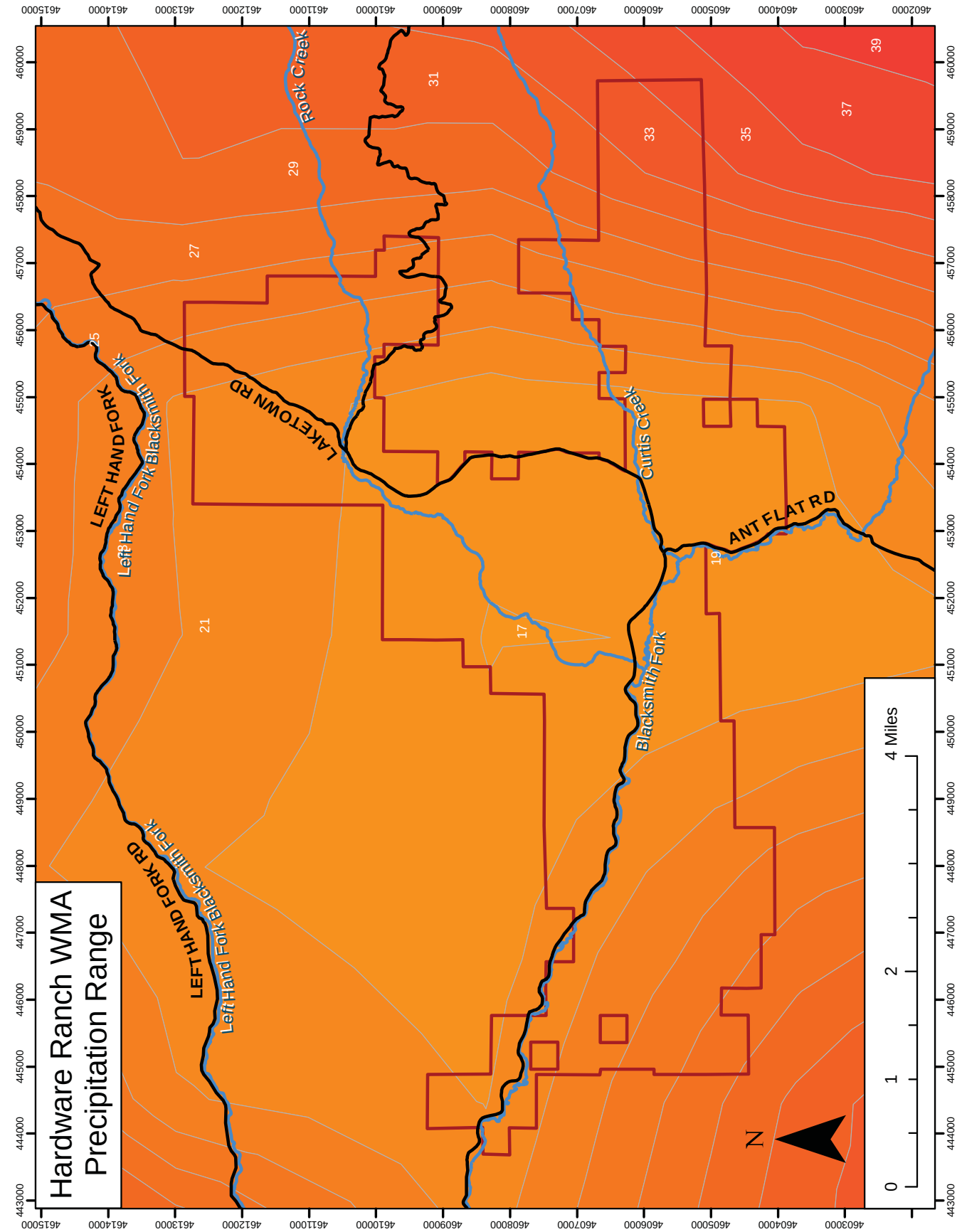
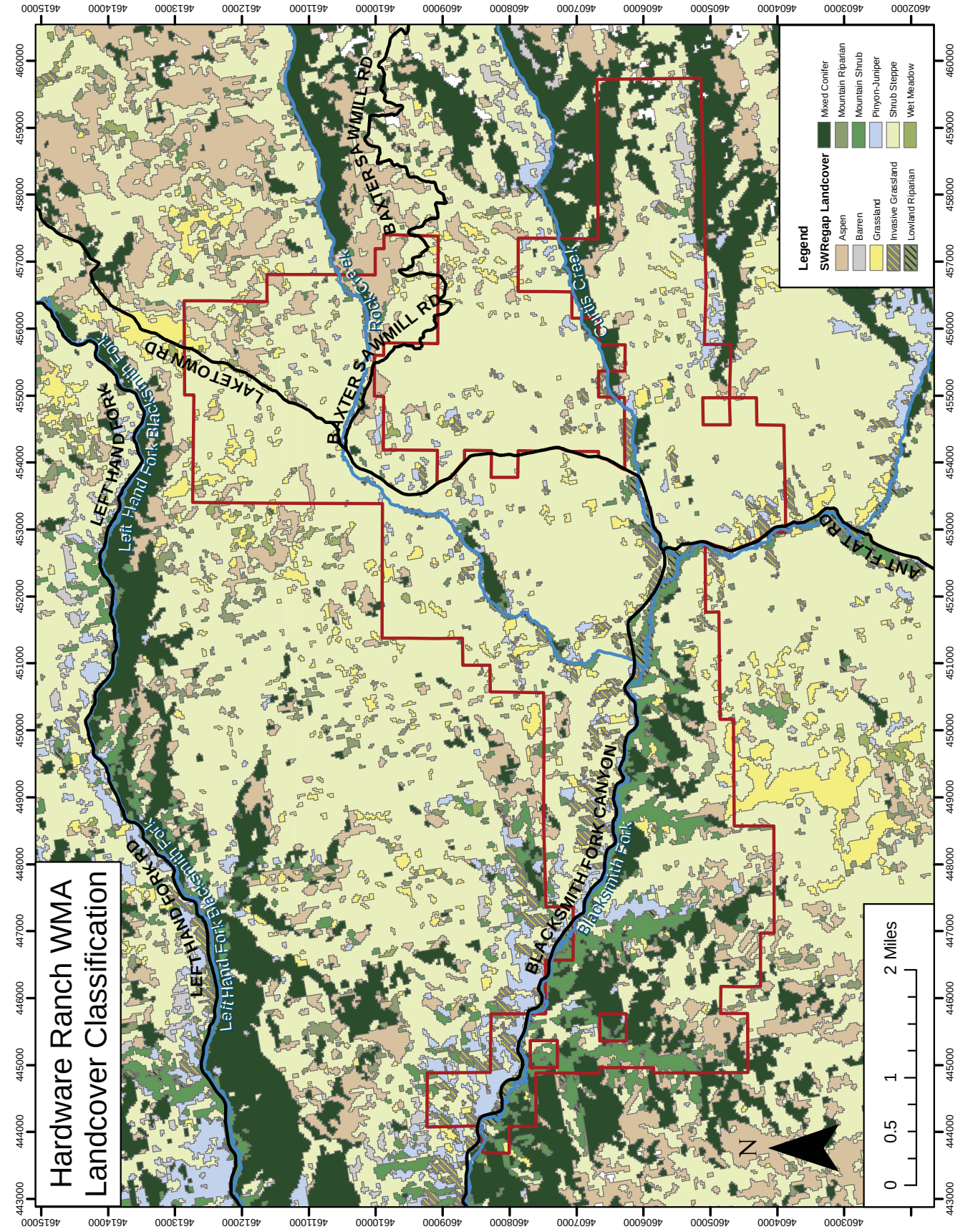
Appendix A – HRWMA Maps




Hardware Ranch WMA
Landform Classification
Legend
null
valley flats (or water bodies)
toe slopes, bottoms, and swales
gently sloping ridges and hills
nearly level plateaus or terrace
very moist steep slopes
moderately moist steep slopes
moderately dry slopes
very dry steep slopes
cool aspect scarps, cliffs, canyons
hot aspect scarps, cliffs, canyons
BAXTER SAWMILL RD
LAKETOWN RD
LEFT HAND FORK RD
BLACKSMITH FORK CANYON
Rock Creek
Curtis Creek
Left Hand Fork Blacksmith Fork
Blacksmith Fork
N
0 0.5 1 2 Miles


Hardware Ranch WMA
Precipitation Range
Rock Creek
Curtis Creek
Blacksmith Fork
Left Hand Fork Blacksmith Fork
LAKETOWN RD
ANT FLAT RD
LEFT HAND FORK RD
N
0
1
2
4 Miles


Hardware Ranch WMA
Landcover Classification
Legend
SWRegap Landcover
Aspen
Barren
Grassland
Invasive Grassland
Lowland Riparian
Mixed Conifer
Mountain Riparian
Mountain Shrub
Pinyon-Juniper
Shrub Steppe
Wet Meadow
BAXTER SAWMILL RD
LAKETOWN RD
LEFT HAND FORK RD
ANT FLAT RD
BLACKSMITH FORK CANYON
Left Hand Fork Blacksmith Fork
Blacksmith Fork
Curtis Creek
Rock Creek
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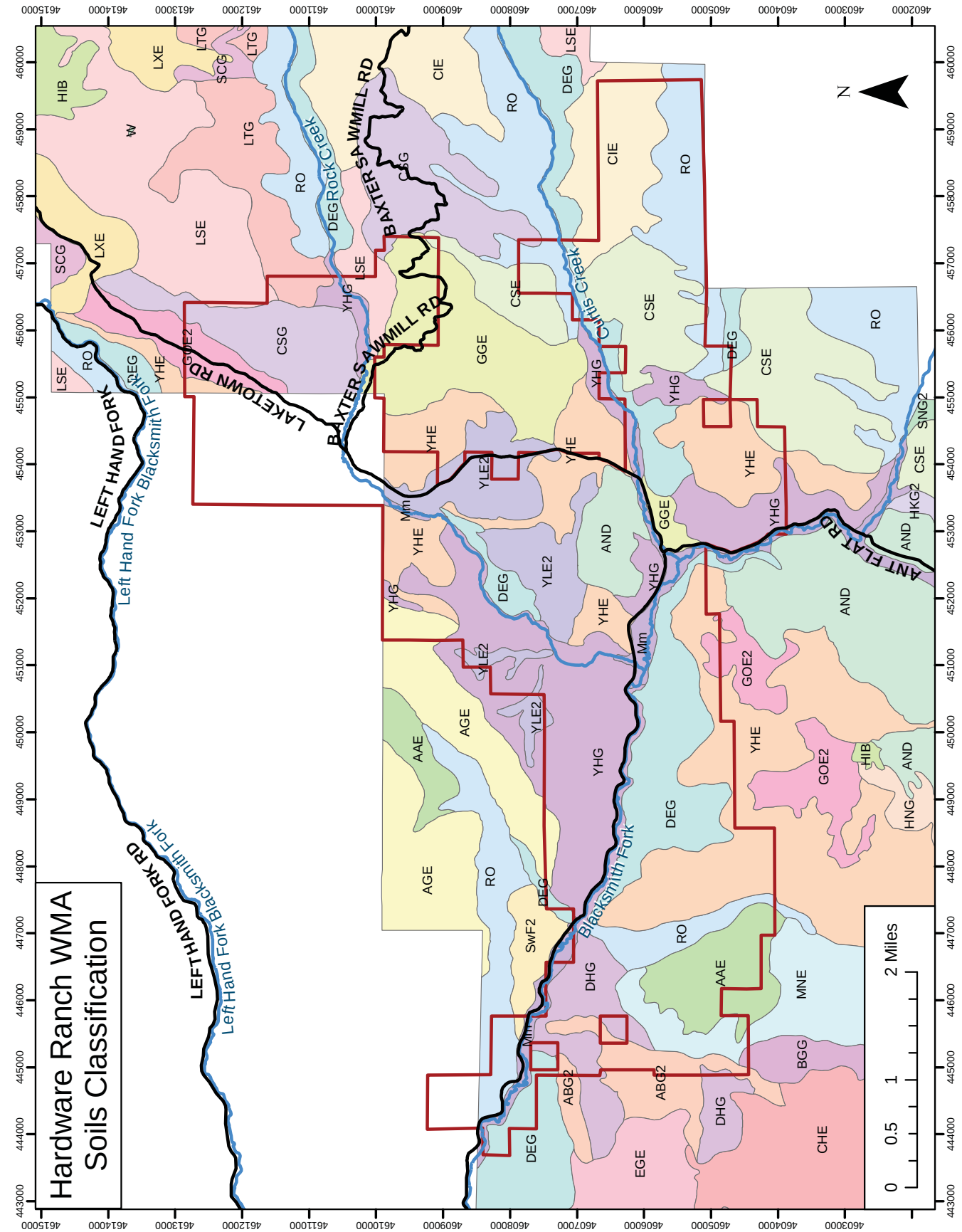
2 Miles


Hardware Ranch WMA
Soils Classification
LEFT HAND FORK RD
LAKETOWN RD
BAXTER SAWMILL RD
ANT FLAT RD
Left Hand Fork Blacksmith Fork
Rock Creek
Curtis Creek
Blacksmith Fork
N
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Appendix B – Planning Participants and Public Involvement

Introduction

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (Division) initiated the development of a Management Plan for the Hardware Ranch Wildlife Management Area (HRWMA) pursuant to Utah Code Section 23-21-2.1. The Management Plan will include a revised Mission Statement for the HRWMA, and goals and objectives for management in support of the new Mission Statement. Although public involvement in agency planning is not required by statute, the Division wishes to involve the public and stakeholders in the planning process to both educate the public and build support for the plan and for the management and programs of HRWMA.

The purposes of the Public Involvement Plan are to support development and implementation of the Management Plan by:

- Identifying stakeholders and interested publics
- Providing clear, easily understood, factual information about HRWMA, its resources and programs
- Helping to identify ideas, issues and management opportunities
- Creating opportunities to gain stakeholder and public input on the Plan
- Building public and stakeholder support for the planning process and Management Plan

This Public Involvement Plan sets forth the methods by which the public has the opportunity to be informed and appropriately involved in the planning process. The public involvement process will focus on an interactive dialogue of information that will result in the dissemination of information relating to the mission and responsibilities of the Division and factual information about the resources and operations of the HRWMA. The timing, formats, and participation of stakeholders and the public in the planning process are described below.

Public Involvement Goals

The goals for public involvement in the HRWMA planning process are to:

- Increase the understanding of stakeholders and the general public about the mission, resources, and operations of the HRWMA
- Ensure coordination and communication among project participants, stakeholders and the general public
- Send consistent and accurate messages
- Solicit appropriate input on Management Plan goals and objectives
- Build constituent support for implementation of the Management Plan

Project Schedule and Status

The Division began the Management Plan process in March, 2009. It is anticipated that the draft Management Plan will be reviewed by the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) and the Board of Wildlife Resources (Wildlife Board) before approval by the Division. Final Division approval is anticipated in spring, 2012.

Project Team

The Management Plan will be an internal administrative Division agency document that will guide management and decision-making at the HRWMA. As such, the bulk of the planning activity will be performed by Division staff and Logan Simpson Design, Inc. the planning consultant retained to assist in the Plan project. A core project team has been identified, consisting of Division employees from the areas of aquatic and terrestrial biology; law enforcement; public education and outreach; and management, to do the bulk of the information gathering and planning work. Division core project team members include Ron Hodson, Randy Wood, Scott Walker, Phil Douglass, Darren DeBloois, Marni Lee, Paul Burnett, and Dan Christensen

Plan Review and Adoption

While there are no legal requirements to incorporate public or stakeholder input into the decision-making process, it is the policy of the Division to consult with affected parties and the general public in agency policy decisions.

To that end, public participation in the planning process will be invited at strategic points in the process to accomplish specific planning objectives as described below.

The reviews and recommendations of the RAC and the Wildlife Board will be conducted in open forums, and public and stakeholder attendees will be invited to comment on both the planning process and the draft Management Plan. Their recommendations will be forwarded to the Director of the Division for his consideration. The final decision on adopting the Management Plan will be made by the Director of the Division pursuant to State statutes and administrative agency rules.

Key Contacts

Dan Christensen is the Superintendent of the HRWMA and Project Manager for the Division. Contact Information: (435) 753-6168, danchristensen@utah.gov.

Jim Carter is the project manager for Logan Simpson Design, Inc. (801) 364-0525, jcarter@lsdut.com.

Public Involvement Activities

Public involvement was scheduled at strategic points in the Master Plan project. Several groups of public and stakeholders were identified, and roles and modes of participation were selected. Public involvement for the HRWMA Management Plan project included five types of activities:

1.) Technical Advisory Committee Meetings – In the past, HRWMA management has consulted with key technical experts on issues related to habitat management, grazing and other management matters. For the purposes of the Management Plan project, knowledgeable experts in the fields of aquatic and terrestrial biology, grazing, education, and legislative policy were asked to provide review and feedback on draft Plan goals, objectives and policies to assist the Division staff in developing a draft Management Plan. TAC members were also asked to communicate with their constituencies to encourage participation in the planning process and implementation of the Management Plan.
A TAC meeting was conducted on July 14, 2009, and the agenda included review of the revised HRWMA Mission Statement and the annotated outline of the Management Plan document. It is anticipated that the TAC will review the administrative draft Management Plan before it is forwarded for Division agency review. Depending on the public input received at the Open House described below, the TAC may be convened again to review comments and suggest revisions for further consideration in the review and approval process.
Members of the TAC include Curtis Webb (Utah Legislator), John White (Cache County Council Member), Josh Runhaar (Cache County Planner), Nancy Mesner (Associate Dean, Utah State University College of Natural Resources), Mike Laughter (Mule Deer Foundation), Richard Droesbeke (Manager of Bear Lake State Park), and Fred Provenza (Utah State University Professor of Range Science)

2.) Project Web Page – Division staff created a web page linked to the Hardware Ranch website to post project status updates and solicit questions and comments. Comments and questions posted to the web page were forwarded to Logan Simpson Design for inclusion in the project record and for consideration in the planning process. The web page will also be used to announce the time and places of public meetings and RAC and Wildlife Board meetings. The web page will include an opportunity to sign-up for project-related e-mail news updates, including times and dates of public meetings, responses to project questions, and other information. Links to the project web page will be placed on other appropriate web sites.

3.) Media Notification – At strategic points in the planning process, press releases were prepared for distribution to the news media. The Division maintained fact sheets, frequently asked questions and other project briefing materials. The Division will also seek opportunities for media coverage and broadcasts about HRWMA and the Management Planning process as the adoption process begins.

4.) Public Open House(s) –When the project team has developed a draft Management Plan document ready for public review, a public open house will be scheduled to introduce the draft Management Plan, describe the planning process, and solicit public input on the Plan. The open house will be scheduled following comment on the agency administrative draft. The comments and suggestions gathered at the open house will be reviewed by the core planning team and considered for inclusion in the Management Plan.

5.) RAC and Board of Wildlife Resources meetings – When the project team has reviewed public input, and has developed a draft Management Plan for consideration for adoption, the Division will place the draft Management Plan on the agenda of the Northern Region RAC for discussion, public input and recommendation to the Wildlife Board. Following RAC review, the draft Management Plan will be forwarded to the Wildlife Board for hearing and recommendation to UDWR. Both the RAC and Wildlife Board meetings will be scheduled and publicly noticed on the project Web Page.

Key Messages and Talking Points

1.) Key Message – Management of HRWMA will be based on the adopted Mission Statement and Management Plan goals, objectives and policies.
- » Talking Points
- » HRWMA is a wildlife management area that allows for recreational activities that are consistent with its wildlife management objectives.
- » Habitat improvement and public outreach have always been important components of the HRWMA mission.
- » Wildlife and habitat management at HRWMA is guided by larger Wildlife Management Unit objectives and the Utah Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.
- » Activities allowed on Division-owned lands are governed by Utah Administrative Rule R657-28.

2.) Key Message – Outreach is a key component of operations at HRWMA
Talking Points
- » HRWMA is the only Division management unit in the Conservation Outreach section of the Division
- » HRWMA sponsors a number of educational and volunteer programs in addition to the winter Elk feeding program
- » HRWMA undertakes partnerships with conservation groups and outdoor recreational organizations to support habitat improvement.
- » HRWMA undertakes partnerships with educational organizations

3.) Key Message – Cumulative uses on HRWMA have resulted in use conflicts and unacceptable resource impacts that the Management Plan will seek to resolve.
- » Talking Points
- » HRWMA sees more than 70,000 visitors each year
- » Uses at HRWMA include hunting, fishing, camping, OHVs, wildlife watching, and grazing, in addition to the Elk feeding and wildlife/habitat management activities.
- » Increasing motorized recreational use is creating adverse impacts on wildlife habitat in some areas of HRWMA

1. Key Message – HRWMA needs to continue to seek support beyond base annual funding.
- » Talking Points
- » Many programs at HRWMA depend on funding from partners, which varies from year to year.
- » Unanticipated contingencies frequently demand reallocation of scarce resources.

Summary Of Comments From The HRWMAWeb Page

Between July, 2009 and May, 2010, twenty-three comments were posted on the Division's website comment page for the Hardware Ranch WMA Management Plan project. A number of comments posted during the late summer of 2009 expressed opposition to the exclosure fencing of Rock Creek to limit motorized vehicles in the riparian areas next to the Creek. Several commented that grazing should not be allowed if vehicular camping was going to be excluded from the area. Several other comments expressed support for the exclosure project, saying that it was sad to see the damage that had been done in the area, and expressing their support for restoring riparian areas at Hardware Ranch WMA. Several comments suggested that improved campsites be provided in alternate locations when long-time campsites are closed.

Several comments expressed the concern that there appears to be little policing of recreational activities at Hardware Ranch WMA. Those respondents expressed concern that it appears that campers are allowed to set up

trailers and other camps that remain in place "all season long", depriving other users of camping opportunities. One comment expressed concern with law enforcement and safety. One comment suggested that entrance to HRWMA be regulated at a gate, and that visitors be told what the rules and expectations are on entrance to the WMA.

Several comments also expressed concern with grazing at Hardware Ranch WMA, saying that they felt that grazing was not an appropriate use in a Wildlife Management Area.

Utah Division of
WILDLIFE RESOURCES

The Future of Hardware Ranch

Public invited to review and comment on management plan

In 1945, the State of Utah purchased Hardware Ranch and turned it into a Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Today, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) oversees the 14,000-acre ranch, which provides critical big game winter range for deer, moose and elk. Other areas of focus include habitat restoration, wildlife research and public outreach.

Because the ranch is an important part of the Cache Valley community and draws visitors from across the state, the DWR is seeking public comment on the management issues that face this popular area.

What management issues does Hardware Ranch face?

The DWR has drafted a management plan to identify the mission of Hardware Ranch and to outline the public activities compatible with that mission. The working draft of the plan addresses the following multiple-use issues and activities:

- OHV use and misuse
- Formal elk feeding
- Winter tourism
- Dispersed camping and access management
- Hunting, fishing and wildlife watching
- Education and outreach programs
- Habitat restoration
- Prescriptive grazing practices
- Local history and folklore

Family outings — including fishing trips — are a big part of traditional activities at Hardware Ranch. Unfortunately, some areas have been damaged and need to be restored.

Hardware Ranch provides great access to prime hunting areas.

Appendix C – Grazing

History

Grazing has been a part of Hardware Ranch since the earliest pioneers began to run livestock east out of Cache Valley up Blacksmith Fork Canyon around 1858. Ranches and farms followed timber and mining operations well beyond where Levi Curtis homesteaded much of what is now Hardware Ranch Wildlife Management Area in 1868. Records indicate that big game was plentiful and by the early 1900s there were increasing conflicts between farmers trying to graze public land and store hay, and deer and elk looking for food in the winter. By the late 1903s the Utah Department of Fish and Game (UDFG) began exploring ways to mitigate the winter crop depredation in the valley; and to balance the habitat needs of wildlife against ever increasing livestock grazing along the foothills and other important wildlife habitat.

In 1940 UDFG submitted a proposal to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for a grant under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937. They proposed purchasing a few thousand acres located on the benches between the mouth of Blacksmith Fork Canyon and Providence Canyon. The ground would essentially allow them to increase big game numbers "without damaging results to the range." This additional public ground could also help reduce winter crop depredation by elk and deer in the valley.

By 1943, UDFG submitted another proposal to the USFWS requesting funds to purchase an additional 6,000 acres of ground from Ernst Peterson and Sons for essentially the same reasons as the Millville purchase. This land was located approximately 15 miles east of the Town of Hyrum, in the heart of Blacksmith Fork Canyon and was already known as Hardware Ranch or "the Hardware."

HRWMA opened to the public under State ownership in the winter of 1945-46. Initially there was no attempt to feed large numbers elk and deer, but as public attraction to the ranch grew, so did a formal winter feeding program.

In the spring, attention turned to spreading livestock grazing over the new public land in order to improve range grasses that would also benefit wildlife. Both sheep and cattle have grazed on HRWMA since then in exchange for in-kind assessment work to maintain and improve fences and other infrastructure.

Current Grazing Management

Range conditions and management objectives have changed over the 60–plus years that Hardware Ranch has operated as a wildlife management area. Recent decades of prolonged drought, an explosion of noxious and invasive weeds, human encroachment on critical wildlife ranges and habitats, and dramatic shifts in big game populations have all contributed to the need to rehabilitate and protect critical habitat.

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Administrative Rule 657-28 describes the uses and activities allowed on Division Lands. It provides for prescribed domestic livestock grazing "necessary for the maintenance or improvement of wildlife habitat on particular division properties." Grazing is utilized at HRWMA as a habitat management tool in accordance with Rule 657-28. Grazing objectives are summarized in tables below.

Through other land acquisitions, HRWMA has grown to approximately 14,258 acres and about 65% is appropriate for some type of domestic livestock grazing. Implementing prescriptive grazing on the remaining 35% of the land is difficult do to very steep slopes and rocky, thin soils which do not respond well to disturbance. Because of these constraints, prescriptive grazing is to be focused on the lands that can be effectively grazed.

Domestic livestock grazing always affects rangelands, and if properly monitored and controlled, grazing can alter areas inaccessible to equipment for treatment. Traditional grazing practices did not meet the habitat goals for HRWMA, so alternatives were considered.

Following a unique 3-year grazing study on HRWMA (2004-2007) prescriptive grazing was adopted as a habitat management tool on the facility. The grazing program uses sheep and/or cattle to influence specific plant community compositions. One of the primary objectives at HRWMA is to increase rangeland forb production to benefit transitional and summer big game areas, as well as nesting and brood-rearing sage grouse.

Other habitat improvement objectives for which grazing can be an effective tool include:

- Increasing and maintaining brush production of wintering big game,
- Maintaining and enhancing riparian areas as highly productive aquatic and terrestrial environments,
- Reducing undesirable vegetative species such as dyers woad, sotted knapweed, and cheatgrass,
- Providing meaningful recreational and educational opportunities to increase public awareness and stewardship of wildlife and habitat, and
- Reduction of fine fuels that can trigger catastrophic wildfire.

The 2004 to 2007 grazing study and current management has delineated areas of HRWMA into well-defined grazing management areas**.** The prescriptive method establishes specific objectives for each management area, and controls:

1.) Location – the placement of livestock within a controlled management area,
2.) Density – the number of grazing livestock allowed in the management area,
3.) Season – the time of year livestock is introduced or reintroduced, and
4.) Intensity & duration – the length of stay within a management area based on grazing effects on vegetation.

Tailoring these variables to obtain the specific objectives is the 'prescription' for each management area.

Grazing is an effective tool that will be used to improve critical areas and ranges and thereby contribute to the overall health and diversity of habitats on HRWMA. The management units may be separated but they are not fragmented because the characteristics extend into the surrounding environment.

Prescriptive grazing differs from most traditional programs in many ways. On HRWMA large concentrations of sheep (1,500 head) or cattle (750 head) are loaded onto ranges in the midst of spring green when grass as well as undesirable plants are emergent, succulent, nutritious, and palatable to livestock. This is also a good time to generate the plant disturbance necessary to invigorate decadent brush and to use muddy hoof prints to open a seed bed. Some of the management areas may open to grazing as early as the first week in April.

Prescriptive grazing also requires significant evaluation prior to turnout of the animals in order to establish a baseline of existing vegetative conditions as well as objectives, and targets and timeline's for livestock rotations into each management unit. On the WMA several of the areas benefit from being re-grazed in the same season. The advantages to re-grazing include adding feed ,Animal Unit Months (AUMs) to the range. Re-grazing some areas is possible because the same plants are again nutritious and palatable, re-grazing damages undesirable plants at a later stage in their growth and, often, hoofs push seeds into the moist soil. A grazing season on HRWMA could run from April 1 through the end of August, or around 5 months. Based on data from the grazing study, there are typically about 3,000 (traditional) AUMs available, depending on moisture, temperature and other seasonal variables. As with other grazing, the problem is balancing a challenging abundance of feed in the early spring with rapidly drying grass in July and August.

The fences and other infrastructure on HRWMA have improved dramatically over the last few years, although much of it is along exterior boundary lines, and doesn't coincide with the boundaries of designated grazing management areas. This is one of the reasons that prescriptive grazing is much more resource and labor intensive. Livestock must be controlled and rotated as determined by the preseason assessment, and then by in-progress evaluations. Habitat factors like sage grouse nesting activities, fish spawning seasons, and runoff can be forecasted, but are often adjusted; thus both livestock and range conditions require very close monitoring.

Grazing on HRWMA is conducted in the midst of many other activities, and HRWMA is open to the public 365 days a year. Several programs run April through December and the WMA is a popular location for hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, OHVs, and camping. Public access is important and temporary closures to accommodate grazing are rare.

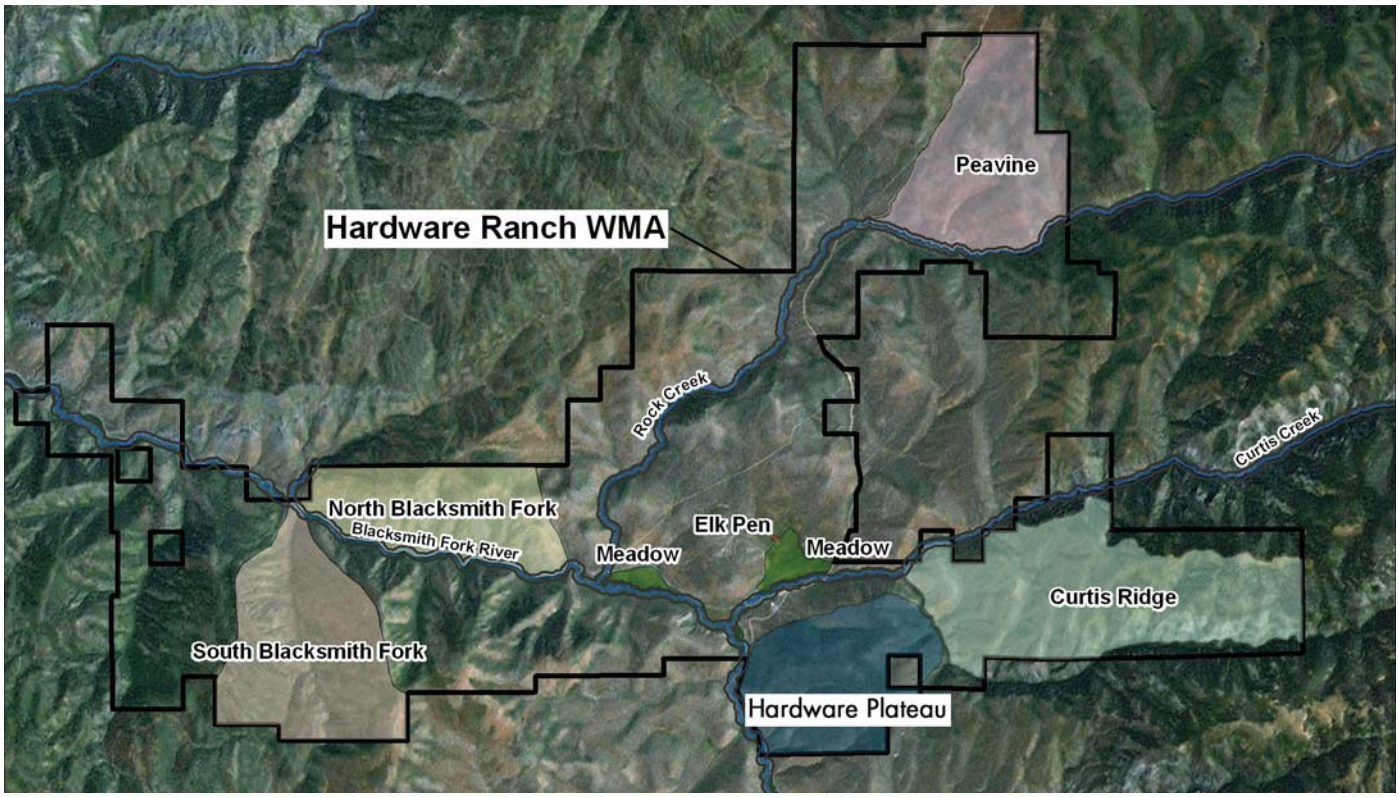
Hardware Ranch WMA has formed a Grazing Advisory Board comprised of local grazers, senior faculty from Utah State University, livestock and range managers, and UDWR biologists. This group has reviewed and recommended changes and additions to the program at HRWMA, and provided input to this new Management Plan. Recommendations from the board will continue to be important as other methods of habitat improvement such as controlled burning, herbicides, and mechanical disturbance are considered.

Contracting for grazing for the Division is accomplished through the Division of Purchasing. Contract monitoring

and onsite management is conducted by the region and the facility managers. Grazing fees are based on the Division-wide average cost of AUMs. That cost in FY2010 was $10.49 per unit and approximately 1,600 AUMs were grazed on HRWMA in FY 2010. Payment is either in cash or in-kind assessment, where materials and labor equal to the grazing fees are provided on-site by the grazer. Since grazing is a tool for improving habitat, all grazing fees are targeted at projects that benefit wildlife and their ranges. Projects on HRWMA have included fencing to control livestock and protect sensitive resources, development of dispersed water sites, weed control activities, and cleanup of abandoned fences and sites.

HRWMA has obtained other project funding used to complement grazing fees. Recently, other funds were used to construct an exclosure fence on a section of Rock Creek being impacted by both livestock and vehicles. Grazing fees had already been used to fence adjacent ground, and together the two fence systems provide control and protection for the area, as well as a new management tool for other resources and programs.

Management zones have been re-designated and realigned for this Management Plan. Resource considerations extend beyond grazing and include monitoring and evaluation of all activities and programs that affect habitat on HRWMA. The map below shows the currently-designated management areas at HRWMA.



Grazing Prescriptions by Grazing Management Area - August 2010

Unit Name: Curtis Plateau
Unit Goal for Wildlife: Big game summer and transition range/ Protection of Curtis Creek/Increase forb understory/ Maintenance of species diversity
Acreage: 2,900
Water Resources: 2 developed springs & ponds
Infrastructure: Fence along Hunsaker Ranch on north side of Curtis Creek
AUMs/Capacity: Summer-200, fall- 100
Target/Timing: Mature, same age class sage brush
Grazing Strategy: Sheep June thru mid-July and October
Notes: Controlled burn scheduled for September 2010

Unit Name: Hardware Plateau

Unit Goal for Wildlife: Improving big game winter range / Sage grouse leking ,nesting, brooding and rearing/ Reduction of fine fuels/ Increase brush and forb production

Acreage: 1,400

Water Resources: Elbow springs, Trough springs, Pond on east side of unit

Infrastructure: Wire fence along south & portion of east boundary

AUMs/Capacity: 200 AUMs

Target/Timing: Grass mid-May thru June

Grazing Strategy: Sheep to feed on steep slopes

Notes: Sage grouse leking and rearing until mid-June

Unit Name: Rattlesnake/North Meadow Basin

Unit Goal for Wildlife: Wintering elk/Reduction of noxious weeds

Acreage: 1,700

Water Resources: Irrigation canal & system/3 ponds

Infrastructure: Fence along SR101/Fence along Cache County Road

AUMs/Capacity: 300 AUMs

Target/Timing: Grass & Noxious weeds May thru July/December thru February wintering elk

Grazing Strategy: Sheep or cattle

Notes: 40- acre private property on east edge

Unit Name: Squaw Flats/ Peavine

Unit Goal for Wildlife: Protection of Rock Creek/ Reduction of noxious weeds/ Increasing forb understory

Acreage: 2,800

Water Resources: Rock Creek/ Ponds on Squaw Flats

Infrastructure: Exclosure fence along Rock Creek/Fence along west & portion of north boundaries, Cache County Road

AUMs/Capacity: 400 AUMs June thru July

Target/Timing: Grass June thru July

Grazing Strategy: Sheep or cattle

Notes: Lack of water away from Curtis Creek and the ponds on Squaw Flats limits this area

Unit Name: South Blacksmith Fork

Unit Goal for Wildlife: Protection of Blacksmith Fork River / Maintenance of existing species/ Occasional disturbance to improve forage quality

Acreage: 2,,900

Water Resources: Blacksmith Fork River

Infrastructure: SR 101

AUMs/Capacity: unknown

Target/Timing: June thru August

Grazing Strategy: Sheep or cattle

Notes: This is a large area but requires special conditions to open and develop due to steep compartments and proximity to both the river an SR 101.

Unit Name: Rock Creek

Unit Goal for Wildlife: Improve big game transition range / Protection of Rock Creek/Reduction of noxious weeds/ Increasing forbs and brush

Acreage: 900

Water Resources: 2.1 miles of Rock Creek/ Pond in Pole Hollow

Infrastructure: Boundary cattle fence along west side/Rail exclosure fence along Rock Creek/ drift fence along Pole Hollow Road/ USFS Road along north end of Pole Hollow / Water access point in exclosure fence

AUMs/Capacity: 150 AUMs

Target/Timing: Grass and weeds in June

Grazing Strategy: Sheep or cattle

Notes: South water point needs to be hardened

Appendix D – Communications Plan

*"**Reconnecting people to nature is critical** and we envision an engaged and informed public who see Hardware Ranch WMA as a good neighbor, and a valuable place to appreciate and sustain wildlife and the places they live."*

Introduction

The overall purpose of this Communications Plan is to improve and maintain the effective exchange of information between Hardware Ranch Wildlife Management Area (HRWMA) and its various publics. Effective communication facilitates recognition that wildlife is valuable to Utahans and strengthens their commitment to stewardship of natural resources. Normal management activities include notification and discussion of programs and major projects; and informational signs on the WMA help inform the public before and during changes. Outreach is one of the primary venues for talking with and listening to our constituents- and it is proactive.

HRWMA is recognized as a significant contributor to both heritage and the current economic profile of Cache Valley. The winter outreach program remains one of a few reliable winter programs in far northern Utah; and innovative education programs support some key state education goals while fostering a broad coalition of like-minded partners. This is especially critical in light of HRWMA's visibility, public use, facilities and infrastructure, and finite resources to meet increasing demands.

Three major objectives of effective outreach and communication are:

1.) To increase public awareness and stewardship of the State's wildlife resources
2.) To increase public and stakeholder understanding and support of Division and HRWMA management objectives
3.) To solicit ideas and suggestions for improving HRWMA operations.

Key Themes and Messages

Outreach efforts at HRWMA can support habitat and wildlife conservation through public support, while promoting wildlife-based tourism and adding diversity to the local economy. Recruiting and retaining hunters and fishers, and offering watchable wildlife opportunities accomplish all of these objectives within the context of an active conservation education strategy.

It is important to a coordinated outreach plan that key HRWMA messages are identified and consistently communicated. Key themes and messages at HRWMA include:

- HRWMA is managed in accordance with a formal Management Plan
- HRWMA is managed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Wildlife and habitat on HRWMA are managed on a WMU scale
- Habitat is managed for ecosystem health
- Winter elk feeding is conducted to reduce crop damage in the valley
- Grazing is used as a habitat improvement tool
- Winter and transitional range on HRWMA is extremely important to mule deer and other wildlife that rely on sagebrush and other browse.
- HRWMA is adjacent to both private and public lands and provides vital corridors
- Hunting and fishing license fees support Division programs, including HRWMA
- Hunting & fishing on HRWMA is open to the public via over-the-counter licenses; and hunting and fishing opportunities on the WMA are abundant.
- Fenced exclosures are used to protect or to "rest" heavily used areas, and allow them to recover from impacts
- Public access to HRWMA is generally open except for restrictions to protect wildlife, habitat and public safety
- OHV on the WMA is restricted to designated roads and trails

Public and Stakeholder Understanding and Support

HRWMA stakeholders and the general public have developed a number of expectations about HRWMA and the management and activities that take place there. As an actively managed wildlife management area, programs and management activities will change from season to season and from year to year. These changes may raise concerns among stakeholders and the general public that their use and enjoyment of HRWMA may be limited or curtailed. This plan suggests criteria to select the best tools to identify affected stakeholders, messages, and communications techniques best suited to communicate the Division's objectives for management initiatives, and the benefits of those initiatives.

HRWMA stakeholders are varied in their relationships to HRWMA, their values and their expectations. By stakeholder group, anticipated stakeholder interests and expectations may include:

- General Public – Access to and continuation of the elk feeding program. Continuing education programs for school-age children. Opportunities for casual visitation, driving tours, wildlife viewing, picnicking, walking. Information on wildlife. Adequate sanitary facilities.
- Hunters and fishers – Access to high-quality hunting and fishing areas. Parking for vehicles and trailers to support hunting. Opportunities for overnight camping to support hunting and fishing activities.
- Recreationists – Access for horseback riding, OHV and snowmobile use. Continued year-around access to the Shoshone Trailhead and adequate parking. Vehicle-based and non-vehicular camping opportunities. Mountain biking access.
- Grazers – Continued access to HRWMA for financially viable livestock grazing.
- Volunteers – Continued opportunities for dedicated hunter and other volunteer work at HRWMA.
- Community Leaders – Operation of HRWMA in a manner that supports local economies. Maintenance of traditional HRWMA uses.
- Academia – Continued opportunities for research at HRWMA.
- Environmental Community – Management at HRWMA to protect ecosystem health and sensitive species. Protection of surface water quality.
- Educators - HRWMA participation in quality education programs.
- Partners – A predicable return on investing with HRWMA

In addition to differing values and issues, HRWMA stakeholder groups have differing ways of communicating and getting information. Communication methods should be selected based on both the purposes of the communication and the intended audiences.

Management Initiatives and Structuring Messages

Many stakeholder expectations are based on the assumption of continuation of existing management practices, while some stakeholder expectations anticipate or advocate changes in management approaches and methods. Some of the management changes suggested by the public input received during preparation of the HRWMA Management Plan include:

- Limiting the time a camper may occupy a camping site at HRWMA
- Reducing grazing at HRWMA
- Suggested areas for dispersed water development
- Increasing signs and other sources of information immediately available to the public

Changes in existing management are likely to concern stakeholders and the public. For each new management initiative or change in management strategy at HRWMA, it is important to systematically evaluate a number of factors that will guide the development of the communication and selection of the means of communication. Those include:

1.) What is the nature of the management initiative or change?
2.) How does it relate to the HRWMA mission, goals and objectives? I.e., what goals and objectives are advanced by the change or initiative?
3.) Which stakeholder groups will be interested/affected? Which may feel benefitted? Which may feel adversely affected? Why?

4.) What is the purpose of the communication to each stakeholder group? To invite comment? To educate or explain? To invite participation? To encourage support?
5.) What message content is best suited for the purpose of the communication?
6.) What method(s) of communication are likely to be most effective in accomplishing the purposes of the communication?
7.) In what order (if any) should stakeholders be contacted?

The Rock Creek exclosure decision in 2009 is an example of a management initiative that lends itself to evaluation as an example of the above-described approach.

1.) What is the management initiative? – To build exclosure fencing around riparian areas along Rock Creek.
2.) How does it advance the HRWMA mission, goals, and objectives? It advances Wildlife Habitat and Management Goal 2 - Identify, protect and improve riparian habitat; and Goal 3 – Realign recreational usage to reduce negative effects on wildlife habitat.
3.) Which stakeholder groups will be interested/affected? Visitors who have traditionally camped in the riparian areas of Rock Creek are likely to be unhappy that their traditional camping areas are not available to them. Anglers are likely to be supportive if they feel it will enhance fishing opportunities. The environmental community is likely to be supportive if they believe it will enhance habitat and water quality. Local officials may be concerned if they believe that the change will adversely affect traditional uses.
4.) What is the purpose of communication with each stakeholder group?
   - Traditional campers – to assure them that vehicle camping is still allowed at HRWMA, and that there are alternative sites available to them.
   - Anglers – to assure them that the exclosed areas will remain open to pedestrian traffic and fishing access, and that the exclosure is expected to improve water quality and aquatic habitat.
   - The environmental community - to assure them that the Division is actively managing the State's wildlife and HRWMA resources to improve riparian and aquatic habitat.
   - Local officials – to assure them that vehicle and non-vehicular camping is still allowed at HRWMA.
5.) What message content is best suited for the purpose of the communication?
   - Traditional campers – Explanation that wheeled vehicles are the cause of the impacts and identification of alternative vehicle camping opportunities.
   - Anglers and the environmental community – Information about how healthy riparian areas improve water quality and aquatic habitat. For anglers and non-vehicular campers, photos or graphics showing the kinds of access still available.
   - Local Officials – Identify both vehicular and non-vehicular camping opportunities that remain at HRWMA.
6.) What method(s) of communication are likely to be most effective in accomplishing the purposes of the communication?
   - Information about riparian areas and water quality – Signs explaining the purposes and intended outcomes of the exclosure should be posted at the site and a page on the Division's website linked to the HRWMA page explaining the purposes of the exclosure, connection to the Management Plan goals and objectives.
   - Camping information – Sign at the site and information on the HRWMA web page identifying alternative vehicle camping areas and informing that non-vehicular access to the exclosed area is still available.
   - Local officials – personal calls explain the purpose of the exclosure and HRWMA management goals; alternative camping opportunities; and asking if they would like a personal briefing.
7.) In what order (if any) should stakeholders be contacted? For the exclosure project, initial contact with local officials should precede a more general announcement of the project. Information about the exclosure should be posted at the site and on the web page several months in advance of the project in order to educate the public about the objectives and need for the project. Members of the environmental and fishing communities should also be made aware of the project in advance in order to encourage their support.

Communications Strategies

HRWMA messages can be disseminated in a variety of ways, both on-site at HRWMA and off-site. Among the communications strategies identified for HRWMA are:

Communication venues that have proven effective for HRWMA messages include:

- Provide adequate on-site information to HRWMA visitors
- Foster an active program where communication is truly 2-way
- Announce changes well ahead of making changes
- Focus on dialog with stakeholders critical to long-term success support of HRWMA.
- Create public commitment to enjoy and preserve HRWMA.
- Target communications activities to key audiences
- Create community-based programs
- Partner to achieve common goals (coalitions)
- Keep information current and available
- Create 'internal partnerships' to support outreach as it supports their projects
- Link outreach to 'action' plans

Communication venues that have proven effective for HRWMA messages include:

- Visitor's Center displays
- HRWMA interpretive sites
- Volunteer program
- Partners/coalitions
- Events
- Educator Training
- School programs
- Internet information
- Signs and maps
- Heritage activities

Operational components and activities that support effective outreach at HRWMA include:

- Proactively introducing management changes that will affect visitor experience;
- Developing signs, maps and other media to inform visitors;
- Defining and focusing education and information capabilities and efforts;
- Defining outreach capabilities;
- Prioritizing outreach activities;
- Pursuing external funding and promoting partnerships; and
- Sustaining outreach activities at a programmatic level.

Several communications and outreach needs have been identified at HRWMA, including:

- Quantify Outreach assets/resources
- Prioritize outreach programs/projects
- Resource commitment from other Division sections
- External funding
- Partners
- Programmatic commitment

Communications Project Template

In order to organize the effort and resources needed for a communications project for a management initiative or educational program, it may be helpful to consider each of the following aspects of the project:

- Project name
- Project manger
- Outreach manager
- Spokesperson
- Issues:
  - What is the action?
  - Why is it needed?
  - Who will it impact?
  - How will it affect HRWMA?
  - Potential impact of not doing outreach?
- Target audiences:
  - Who needs to know?
  - Who is most impacted/ benefitted? (stakeholders)
  - Who can influence the process and/or outcome?
- Message:
  - What is the message?
  - Keep message focused & consistent
- Outcomes:
  - What is the specific desired outcome?
  - What are other potential outcomes?
- Message delivery:
  - Methods of communicating & specific activities?
  - Evaluating and response to feedback?
  - Where is more information available?
- Resources available:
  - Budget
  - Personnel

Timeline/deadlines:

- When does project begin and end?
- When does outreach begin and end?
- Specific milestones (activities or objectives)

Follow up:

- In-progress photos & other media materials
- Summary statement (What happened?)
- Who needs to know?

Appendix E – Resources and Information

Division of Wildlife Resources information

About Utah Division of Wildlife Resources - wildlife.utah.gov/dwr/about-us.html

Utah Wildlife and Habitat Partners and Projects - wildlife.utah.gov/watersheds

Utah Conservation Data Center - dwrcdc.nr.utah.gov/ucdc

Hardware Ranch Wildlife Management Area website – www.Hardwareranch.com

Utah Wildlife News - wildlife.utah.gov/dwr/news.html

Rules and Regulations Guidebooks - wildlife.utah.gov/dwr/hunting guidebooks.html

Dedicated Hunter Program - wildlife.utah.gov/dwr/hunting/ded-hunters.html

UDWR Education Resources - wildlife.utah.gov/education/index.php

Utah Watchable Wildlife - wildlife.utah.gov/watchable-wildlife

Utah Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy - wildlife.utah.gov/cwcs/10-01-21-utah-cwcs-strategy.pdf

Mule Deer Management Plan - wildlife.utah.gov/hunting/biggame/pdf/mule_**deer_plan**.pdf

Predator Management Plan - ildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/powerpoint/**predator_management**.ppt

Beaver Management Plan - wildlife.utah.gov/furbearer/pdf/**beaver_plan**_2010-2020.pdf

Moose Management Plan - wildlife.utah.gov/hunting/biggame/pdf/**moose_plan**.pdf

Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative - wildlife.**utah**.gov/**watersheds**/

Elk Management Plan - wildlife.utah.gov/hunting/biggame/pdf/**elk_plan**.pdf

Bonneville cutthroat trout Conservation Agreement

Boreal Toad Conservation plan

Sage Grouse Conservation Agreement.

Fire Management - http://www.ffsl.utah.gov/firemgt/2010WardensManual4wcover.pdf

AGRC – Utah Maps and geographic database - Mapserv.utah.gov/SGID

Other Documents and Information

Internal Audit Review - 1998 Review and recommendations for gift and interpretive sales at Hardware Ranch

Past Planning efforts - 1991-1996 A compilation of various committee reviews of Hardware Ranch with emphasis on outreach programming

Facility Evaluation - 1999 James R. Childs Associates review of Hardware Ranch facilities.

Operations Manual - Internally generated listings of standard operating procedures.

Wetland Ecosystem Education Plan - Listing of education opportunities and needs that exist within the drainages of the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem.

Utah Sensitive Species List
http://dwrcdc.nr.utah.gov/ucdc/viewreports/sslist.htm

Old Ephriam
http://www.gleed.net/oldephraim/researchpaper.htm

Wildlife Species Fact Sheets
http://wildlife.utah.gov/publications/notebook.php

Restoration of Riparian Habitats
http://wildlife.utah.gov/pdf/riparian.pdf

Utah's Threatened and Endangered Species
http://www.berrymaninstitute.org/pdf/endgspec.pdf

Hardware Ranch Timeline
http://wildlife.utah.gov/hardwareranch/history.php

Appendix F – Outreach Plan Outline

CHAPTER 1: OVERVIEW

- PART 1 – OVERVIEW
  - Purpose of HRWMA
  - Purpose and Need of Planning
  - Scope of PA&S Planning
  - Planning Process
  - Relationship to Five Year master Plan
  - Interrelationships of chapters and how they work together to achieve overall goal of PSA
  - Definitions (or in an Appendix)
- PART 2 - AGENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
  - Related Agency Goals and Objectives
  - Hardware Ranch WMA Public Awareness and Stewardship Goals and Objectives
- PART 3 - VISITOR USE & IMPLICATIONS
  - National & Regional Travel Trends
  - Utah Travel Trends
  - Local Cache Valley Travel Trends
  - WMA Visitor Assumptions
  - Hunting & Fishing
  - Recreation
  - Existing visitor use studies and data
  - Implications for PA&S
- PART 4 - WMA INTRINSIC QUALITIES
  - Recreational
  - Scenic
  - Natural
  - Historical
  - Cultural
  - Archaeological
- PART 5 – SITE AND PROGRAM INVENTORY
  - Site Inventory
    - *Interpretive Spaces*
      - Education Spaces
      - Recreational Corridors
      - Hunting and Fishing Areas
      - Image: Location Map
  - Program Inventory
    - *Interpretive Programs*
      - Interpretive Sites
      - Interpretive Displays
      - Interpretive Media
  - Personal/Guided Interpretation
    - Partners
    - Budget
  - Education Programs
    - School programs
    - Community Programs
    - Events
    - Partners
    - Budget

Volunteer Programs
Other
Visitor Services
PART 6 – IDENTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE PARTNERS
Existing partner inventory
Guidelines for evaluating existing partners and continuing or discontinuing partnership
Guidelines for selecting future partners
PART 7 – IMPLEMENTATION
Criteria for prioritizing PS & A projects
Guidelines for creating new PS & A projects/programs
Monitoring and Evaluation criteria
Who Does What/ Supervision Structure
Implementation Schedule, Personnel and Budgets – No restrictions
Implementation Schedule, Personnel and Budgets –Phase in options

CHAPTER 2 – INTERPRETIVE PLAN

PART 1 – PURPOSE AND NEED
What is Interpretation?
What is the purpose of interpretation on the WMA and connection to other programs?
Thematic Connections to Conservation Education
PART 2 - VISITOR USE AND AUDIENCE ANALYSIS
Need Assessment of Audiences
Survey and Other Analysis Methods
PART 3 - INTERPRETIVE GOALS & STRATEGIES
WMA Interpretive Goals
Visitor Interpretive Goals
Agency Interpretive Goals
WMA Interpretive Theme Statement
Subthemes
PART 4 - CURRENT INTERPRETIVE EVALUATIONS AND PROPOSED ACTION
PART 5 - PROPOSED INTERPRETATION
Visitor Center Exhibits
Subthemes
Outdoor Interpretive Exhibits and Structures
Subthemes
Personal/Guided Interpretive Services
Subthemes
Interpretive Media/Printed Materials
Subthemes
Support Facilities
PART 6 -INTERPRETIVE GUIDELINES
Site Planning
Entry Sites
Picnic Areas
Non Motorized Camping Areas
Motorized Camping Ares
Research Sites
Restoration Sites
Overlooks
Trailheads
Agricultural Areas
Display Guidelines

Personal/Guided Guidelines
Use of Logos
Materials, Textures, and Colors
Wood features
Stone features
Metals
Paints Stains and Preservatives
Concrete and Asphalt Applications
Architectural Details
Recreation Structures
Interpretive structures
Administrative, Utility and Storage Structures
Residences
Visitor Center
Administrative Signage
Identified areas of need
Informational/Orientation Structures
Site Identification structures
Site closures
Road closures
PART 7 - EVALUATION AND MONITORING STRATEGIES
APPENDIX
Planning Process Detail
Sub theme details
Survey
Evaluations
Accessibility Guidelines
Strategies interpretive planning and design on a minimal budget
CHAPTER 3- EDUCATION PLAN
PART 1 – PURPOSE AND NEED
What is Conservation Education ?
What is the purpose of Conservation Education on the WMA, relationships?
Conservation Education Theme Statement and connections to interpretation
PART 2 - AUDIENCE ANALYSIS
PART 3 – EDUCATION GOALS & STRATEGIES
WMA Education Goals
Visitor Education Goals
Agency Education Goals
WMA Education Theme Statement
Subthemes
Topics
PART 4 - CURRENT EDUCATION EVALUATIONS AND PROPOSED ACTION
PART 5 - PROPOSED EDUCATION
School Programs
Community Programs
Events
Support Facilities
CHAPTER 4 – VISITOR SERVICES
PART 1 – OVERVIEW
What are visitor services?
Purpose of Visitor Services and connections to Interpretation, Education

PART 2 - VISITOR SERVICES GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
PART 3 - FRONT DESK SERVICES
- Reception
- Sales
- Dissemination of Information
- Guidelines for Cleanliness

PART 4 – MARKETING (non management action related marketing)
- Hours of operation
- Interpretive Opportunities
- Educational Opportunities
- Volunteer Opportunities

PART 5 – EMPLOYEES
- New Hire Guidelines
  - Policies and Procedures
  - Recruitment
  - Interviewing
- Employee Training
  - New Employees
  - Returning Employees
- Employee Handbook
- Uniform Policy and Appearance
- Guidelines for public interaction
- Performance Monitoring and Evaluations

CHAPTER 6 - BUILDING ASTHETICS, SCENERY AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

PART 1- OVERVIEW
- Existing Conditions
- Desired Future Conditions

PART 2 – MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES
- Vegetation
- Recreation Sites
  - Non-motorized
  - Motorized
  - Picnic Areas
  - Roadside Vistas: Wayside/Pull-offs

PART 3 – BUILDING AESTHETICS
- Building Inventory and Purpose
- Current Conditions
- Desired Future Conditions
- Building guidelines

PART 4 - LANDSCAPES
- Inventory and Purpose
- Current Conditions
- Desired Future Conditions
- Landscape Guidelines

PART 5- SITE AMENITIES
- Trash receptacles
- Picnic tables and benches
- Horse corrals and hitching posts
- Water hydrants
- Outdoor restrooms parking lots

PART 6 – LANDSCAPE TREATMENTS

Entry portal plantings
Administrative and storage building plantings
Residential plantings
Interpretive plantings: teaching gardens

Appendix G – Sensitive Species & Utah Heritage Data

This appendix lists the sensitive species in Cache County and depicts sensitive species in the vicinity of Hardware Ranch WMA as assembled by the Utah Natural Heritage Program.

Disclaimer: This list was compiled using known species occurrences and species observations from the Utah Natural Heritage Program's Biodiversity Tracking and Conservation System (BIOTICS); other species of special concern likely occur in Utah Counties. This list includes both current and historic records. (Last updated on September 15, 2009).

Cache County Common Name	Scientific Name	State Status
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN	PELECANUS ERYTHRORHYNCHOS	SPC
BALD EAGLE	HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS	SPC
BLACK SWIFT	CYPSELOIDES NIGER	SPC
BLUEHEAD SUCKER	CATOSTOMUS DISCOBOLUS	CS
BOBOLINK	DOLICHONYX ORYZIVORUS	SPC
BONNEVILLE CUTTHROAT TROUT	ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKII UTAH	CS
BROWN (GRIZZLY) BEAR	URSUS ARCTOS	S-ESA
BURROWING OWL	ATHENE CUNICULARIA	SPC
CALIFORNIA FLOATER	ANODONTA CALIFORNIENSIS	SPC
CANADA LYNX	LYNX CANADENSIS	S-ESA
DESERET MOUNTAINSNAIL	OREOHELIX PERIPHERICA	SPC
FERRUGINOUS HAWK	BUTEO REGALIS	SPC
FRINGED MYOTIS	MYOTIS THYSANODES	SPC
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	AMMODRAMUS SAVANNARUM	SPC
GREAT PLAINS TOAD	BUFO COGNATUS	SPC
GREATER SAGE-GROUSE	CENTROCERCUS UROPHASIANUS	SPC
LEWIS'S WOODPECKER	MELANERPES LEWIS	SPC
LONG-BILLED CURLEW	NUMENIUS AMERICANUS	SPC
LYRATE MOUNTAINSNAIL	OREOHELIX HAYDENI	SPC
NORTHERN GOSHAWK	ACCIPITER GENTILIS	CS
PYGMY RABBIT	BRACHYLAGUS IDAHOENSIS	SPC
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	TYMPANUCHUS PHASIANELLUS	SPC
SHORT-EARED OWL	ASIO FLAMMEUS	SPC
THREE-TOED WOODPECKER	PICOIDES TRIDACTYLUS	SPC
TOWNSEND'S BIG-EARED BAT	CORYNORHINUS TOWNSENDII	SPC
WESTERN RED BAT	LASIURUS BLOSSEVILLII	SPC
GRAY WOLF	CANNIS LUPUS	
WESTERN TOAD	BUFO BOREAS	SPC
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	COCCYZUS AMERICANUS	S-ESA

Appendix H – Sport Fishery Stream Classifications

Class 1

Class 1 streams are the top quality fishing waters of the state. They should be preserved and improved for fishery and similar recreational uses. These streams are generally outstanding in natural beauty and of a unique type. They are accessible by modern car at suitable points, and larger waters are floatable with suitable launching facilities. Productivity is such that it supports high fish populations in good condition of one or more species of the more desirable game fish. Natural reproduction or the stocking of small fish maintains an excellent sport fishery.

Class 2

Class 2 waters are of great importance to the state fishery. These are productive streams with high aesthetic value and should be preserved. Fishing and other recreational uses should be the primary consideration. They are moderate to large in size and may have some human development, such as farms or commercial establishments along them. Many Class 2 streams are comparable to Class 1 except for size.

Class 3

Class 3 streams comprise approximately half of the total stream fishery habitat in Utah. These waters are important because they support the bulk of stream fishing pressure in Utah. Water developments involving Class 3 waters should be planned to include fisheries as a primary use, and fishery losses should be 17 minimized and enhanced when possible.

Class 4

Class 4 streams are typically poor in quality with limited fishery value. Fishing should be considered a secondary use. A few Class 4 waters provide an important catchable fishery in areas where no other fishery exists. Water development plans should include proposals to enhance fisheries values where feasible.

Class 5

Class 5 streams are now practically valueless to the fishery resource. Other water uses should take preference over fisheries in planning water developments; however, many water in this class could provide valuable fisheries if additional water could be provided.

Class 6

Class 6 streams are those stream channels which are de-watered for significant time periods during the year. Many of the stream sections now in the class could support good to excellent fish populations if appropriate minimum flows could be provided. Planning of water developments should include consideration for restoration of these de-watered sections of stream.

Appendix I – Outreach Programs

I EDUCATION PROGRAMS

A. Community Programs/Events

1.) *Free Fishing Day/Bear River Celebration –annual*

- Audience: Cache Valley Youth
- Partners: UDWR, Cache Anglers, USU Water Quality Extension, USFS Logan
- Ranger District and Logan Environmental Department.
- Funding: partners, with 0-$200 WMA budget depending on year.
- Description: Includes passports to fun, free gift bags and free t-shirts. Families learn fishing skills and impacts of recreation of the Bear River Watershed.
- Participation: 250-600
- Awareness/Exploration/Stewardship:
- Coordinated/Implemented: Assistant Manager

2.) *Elk Festival – annual*

- Audience: general public
- Partners: UDWR Hunters Education, USFS Logan Ranger District, Utah State Parks, Stokes Nature Center, USU Water Quality Extension, Hyrum City Youth Council, Cache Archers
- Funding: $600-$1000 Ranch Budget
- Description: free wagon rides to view the elk and youth activity stations.
- Participation: 400-1,300
- Awareness/Exploration/Stewardship:
- Coordinated/Implemented: Assistant Manager

3.) *Hyrum City Christmas Party – annual*

- Audience: Hyrum City Residents
- Partners: Hyrum City,
- Funding: Equivalent of driver hours paid for by Hyrum City (ASK DAN), gifts, photos and snacks provided by Hyrum City
- Description: local community event offering free rides, photos with Santa in the visitor center and visitor center exploration. Kicks off the winter season and used as a training day.
- Participation: 500-1,200
- Awareness/Exploration/Stewardship:
- Coordinated/Implemented: Assistant Manager and Manager

4.) *National Trails Day - intermittent*

- Partners: sponsored by USFS and hosted at HRWMA
- Participation: reaches 100-300 visitors
- Coordinated and Implemented: Assistant Manager

5.) *4H Nature Camp – intermittent*

- partnership with 4H and UDWR
- sponsored by 4H and hosted by UDWR
- reaches up to 100 youth
- Coordinated and Implemented: Assistant Manager

B. School Programs (Fall and Spring)

1.) *Mountain Wilds to Wetland Wonders*

- Education partnership, created in July 2006 between Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge and HRWMA.
- Field trip and teacher training experience offered to Box Elder School District fourth grade. Acts as the fall and spring school program for HRWMA
- Funded by grant dollars
- 2010 pilot year for Cache County School District, expansion will depend on funding.
- Coordinated and Implemented: Assistant Manager

2.) *Natural Resources Field Days (Fall)*
- » Partnership between Cache County 4-H, USFS Logan Ranger District, Soil
- » Conservation Districts, USU Water Quality Extension and UDWR.
- » Funded completely through partners, little to no out of budget expense.
- » UDWR hosts, provides lesson plans and volunteer teachers for the wildlife station.
- » Reaches about 1,200-1,700 Cache County fourth graders per year.
- » Coordinated and Implemented: Assistant Manager

3.) *All About Elk (Winter)*
- » Traditional winter school program, includes sleigh ride and three half hour activity/learning stations.
- » Stations focus on wildlife adaptations and habitat.
- » Coordinated and Implemented: Assistant Manager

C. Teacher/Volunteer Workshops and Trainings

1.) *Leave No Trace Train the Trainer*
- » funding and logistics provide by Back Country Horsemen of Utah
- » HWR provides supplemental info, training and site development
- » Coordinated and Implemented: Assistant Manager

2.) *Combined Workshop*
- » Project Wet Wild and Learning Tree workshop, "combined projects"
- » Three day event
- » Ranch hosts the event and provides administrative and planning support.
- » Coordinated and Implemented: Assistant Manager

3.) *MWWW Teacher Trainings*
- » Training sponsored and funded by HWR, BRMBR through grants, in conjunction with the MWWW curriculum project.
- » Required for teachers wishing to participate in program.

4.) *4. NR Field Days Volunteer Training*
- » Train 60 + pre service elementary teachers at USU to assist with the teaching during NR Field Days.
- » partners combine to train students on individual stations

II. GENERAL OUTREACH CALENDAR

July:	Combined Workshop
August:	Leave No Trace Training
September:	Volunteer Training for NR Field Days, NR Field Days
October:	MWWW, Elk Festival
November:	MWWW, Recruit outreach seasonal (drivers and VC Staff)
December:	Hire /train seasonals, All About Elk, sleigh rides, staff Visitor Center
January:	All About Elk, Staff Visitor Center
February:	All About Elk, Staff Visitor Center, MWWW Teacher Training
March:	Prep and Development
April:	MWWW
May:	MWWW
June:	Free Fishing Day

III. CURRENT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH FACILITIES

A. Classroom
- » Current classroom has been converted from a short order café and snowmobile rental shed to a classroom for school programs, workshops and meetings.
- » Can handle 20-30 adults for workshop and 75 (sitting down on floor, tight) students for school program introduction or as an indoor rotation option in poor weather.

B. Visitor Center
- » Used for introductions, poor weather and visitor center explore (displays)

C. Parking Lots (VC Parking lot and Sleigh Ride Parking Lot)
- Used for "activity stations"

D. Curtis Creek
- Behind the Curtis Creek gate about 1/8 mile east of visitor center.
- This area used for MWWW. All stations take place "up" Curtis Creek
- Offers a more remote, natural location for programs

E. Teaching Garden
- Not currently used for school programs. Area next to visitor center that has been fenced off and planted to native species for interp. and education purposes. Not used because no spring, fall, summer programming are not funded.

IV. CURRENT INTERPRETIVE OUTREACH PROGRAMS (Active)

A. Sleigh Rides/Drivers
- Driver recruited, hired, trained and supervised by Dan (horse and interp training).
- Seasonal handbook with background information and sample scripts provided by Marni.
- Drivers provide information to the public over the course of a 20 minute sleigh ride.

B. Visitor Center Desk/Staff Public Interaction
- Seasonal staff hired, trained and supervised by Assistant Manager.
- Typical front end desk duties

V. EXISTING INTERPRETIVE OUTREACH FACILITIES/AREAS (passive)

A. Welcome Kiosk
- Funded and constructed by USFS Logan Ranger District during the Olympics.
- Scheduled for new interpretive panels that focus on welcoming and orientating the visitor to Hardware Ranch.
- Utilized most in the summer.

B. Sleigh Line/Sleigh Ride
- Under construction funding provided by RMEF and plan in place.
- Sleigh line area will include new rails and benches and interpretive displays to enhance the waiting and ride experience.

C. Visitor Center and Dining Room
- As money and time allows display frames will be replaced. Currently all old and outdated displays have been removed from the VC.
- Visitor Center will focus on wildlife, habitat and management. The foyer will be a welcoming area and identify the Ranch as UDWR and the dinning room will be a historical display area.

D. Habitat Teaching Garden
- Development and construction partnership between UDWR, Back-country Horsemen and Willow Valley Free Trappers.
- Design was created by a dedicated hunter, trail breaking and maintenance will be by dedicated hunters.
- Currently no interpretive labels on plants due to lack of funding and staffing available to make labels.

E. Campgrounds
- Ranch does not have official campgrounds. We have many areas that have been abused and are currently used for trailer camping and dispersed.
- No signs, rule posting. Location information etc. at any sites

F. Site Signage
- Current signage is completely inadequate. What we do have is not useful and poorly done.

VI. CURRENT VOLUNTEER OUTREACH PROGRAM

A. Dedicated Hunters
- Provide a variety of projects for individual volunteers and group projects. Much of the facilities upgrades have been done by dedicated hunters.

- Most summer weekends are consumed with dedicated hunter project management.

B. Resident Volunteer Program

- Program developed in 2004 and ran successfully for one year. Program canceled and grazing contractor moved into volunteer house. Contractor no longer on site, volunteer house used as a grant match.
- Volunteers are required to provide 12-16 hours of service and we provide them with housing to facilitate this service.
- Program provides us with consistent volunteers to help with programs and upkeep/ maintenance of houses.
- Could easily be reinstated if Bunkhouse become available.

C. USU Volunteers

- Over 60 students from USU Elementary Education Department are involved in volunteering to teach the wildlife and other stations at NR Field Days.

D. Interns

- Efforts to recruit USU students for non paid internships have been unsuccessful.
- Presently, there is no funding available for paid internships.

Appendix J – Camping/Access Management

Wildlife-oriented recreation is within the mission of HRWMA and it has been the tradition of Division management to accommodate hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and camping as long as these activities are done with wise stewardship in mind. However, examples of wise stewardship and abuse are both found at HRWMA.

The first step for the Division to help balance wildlife, fish, and habitat needs and public recreation desires is to inventory and describe current camping activities at HRWMA, to identify habitat and wildlife management problems related access and camping, and to determine the Division's management stewardship policies and actions with regard to camping and access at all camping and other access points on HRWMA.

Current Camping Activities

Although there are no designated camping areas at HRWMA, and dispersed camping occurs throughout the area, vehicle-based camping at HRWMA is concentrated into four main areas, shown on the following maps:

- Blacksmith Fork
- Curtis Creek
- Rock Creek
- Peavine

Camping needs and opportunities at all of the identified camping areas on HRWMA were assessed using the Camping Assessment form on the following page. All five of the identified camping zones and associated sites for each zone have been cataloged in this manner. Based on the Division stewardship team review of camping needs and impacts at HRWMA, a number of protocols and recommended rules to manage camping have been identified.

The most important step is to identify specified access points for both vehicle-based and tent camping, and for other recreational uses. Camping rules may be posted at identified areas to require:

- Limiting camping stays at HRWMA to 14 days - Some areas have chronic and unfair use by some people parking and leaving their RV for long periods.
- Requiring the use of portable toilets - Public toilets are not currently available at most areas on HRWMA. Human waste is unsightly, unhealthy and contributes to diminished water quality.
- Disallowing motorized vehicle and OHV use in some areas
- Limiting camping to tent camping only in some areas.

Additional posted rules include:

- Requiring tread lightly camping techniques in some areas.
- Limited to day use only in some areas. - In most cases, day use will mean from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. to accommodate hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers.
- Direction to stay on existing roads

In order to direct recreational users and campers to appropriate areas, signing will be posted to identify:

- Angler and sportsman access points;
- Areas for OHV trailer parking
- Areas where OHVs may be used at campsites

HRWMA Camping/Access Management Inventory (Sample)
Zone: Upper Blacksmith Fork Canyon
Campsite: Camp Wapiti

Task	Comments	
1. Identify impacts to resources caused by recreational use	Toilet paper is often left hanging in the vegetation. Erosion from improper vehicle use. Campfire rings that do dot meet fire prevention standards OHV use that stirs up dust and extends on to hay production areas	
2. Vehicle access policy change recommendation	No OHVs in Campgrounds.	
3. Signing, fences & barriers required.	Signs: Please Pack Out All Garbage Camping Limit 14 Days No OHVs Fishing Access Point Kiosk and WMA Map	Barriers: Boulders along SR101 to prevent erosion Log rail fence to direct access at stream Define vehicle path with boulders of logs
4. Camping or no camping justification	This area is a traditional camping area and should remain open to camping if use is done responsibly.	
5. Camping Rules Publishing Recommendations (list publications)	All hunting and fishing guide books HRWMA website State Parks Publications	
6. Interagency Review	State Parks and Forestry, Fire and State Lands Divisions have recommended the use of fire rings to identify camping areas and to reduce wildfire potential	
7. Campfire Recommendations	Install ten state approved campfire pits. These pits will help define camping areas in camping season and provide fire pits for winter visitors to enjoy the tubing area.	
8. Wise Stewardship and Enhancement Opportunities	This area is lacking shade. Plantings of cottonwood trees along the river would greatly enhance this area for campers. It would also provide additional habitat for song birds and neotropical migrants. Gravel roads to allow access in winter months to access the traditional tubing hill on the south side of the river. Install a small bridge to access the tubing hill.	

The results of the camping assessments for each of the four camping zones at HRWMA are summarized here:

Blacksmith Fork Campsites

There are 13 individual access sites in this camping zone of HRWMA. Of the 13 sites, four will accommodate camping. The rest are recommended to be designated as “Day Use Only” because they are in the open and not well suited for camping and are mostly used for angler access anyway. Five areas have buck and rail fences to protect vegetation near the stream. Most of the areas have fire rings that do not meet state standards for wildfire prevention.

Since there are no toilet facilities and dispersal away from these sites is not practical to practice Leave No Trace methods, self-contained trailers and portable toilets are recommended for these camping areas.

Curtis Creek Campsites

There are just two areas that are designated as tent camping areas in this zone. Both receive light use. Both areas have buck and rail fences to protect vegetation near the stream. Both of the areas have fire rings that do not meet state standards for wildfire prevention. A vault toilet is accessible for the west camping area in the OHV Parking Area. Leave No Trace practices are recommended for the east area.

Rock Creek Camping Zone

There are six access sites in this camping zone of HRWMA that will accommodate camping. One is for tent use and five are trailer or RV use. The areas have buck and rail fences to protect vegetation near the stream. Most of the areas have fire rings that do not meet state standards for wildfire prevention. Since there are no toilet facilities and dispersal away from these sites is not practical to practice Leave No Trace methods, self-contained trailers and portable toilets are recommended. Because of proximity to OHV roads, OHV use is allowed at all RV campsites

Peavine Camping Zone

There are two access site in this camping zone of HRWMA. One will be designated as day use only and one will allow camping. There are scattered fire rings that do not meet state standards for wildfire prevention. Since there are no toilet facilities and dispersal away from these sites is not practical to practice tread lightly methods, self-contained trailers and portable toilets are recommended. Because of proximity to OHV roads, OHV use is allowed

Based on the camping assessment, the Division proposes to allocate camping uses at HRWMA as shown on the Camping/Access Management map next page.

Camping/Access Management

Access Points To Be Signed As Follows:

Tent and RV camping are permitted.

Tent Camping Only.

Day Use Only.

In most cases, day use will mean from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. to accommodate hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers.

Camping at Hardware Ranch Wildlife Management Area is concentrated into five main areas:

Additional rules may be posted at specific areas to include:

Stays fewer than 14 days (some areas have chronic and unfair use by some people parking and leaving their RV for too many days).

Portable Toilets Required. Public toilets are not currently available at most areas on HRWMA. Human waste is unsightly, unhealthy and contributes to diminished water quality.

Campfire rings that do not meet State of Utah standards for wildfire prevention will be replaced.

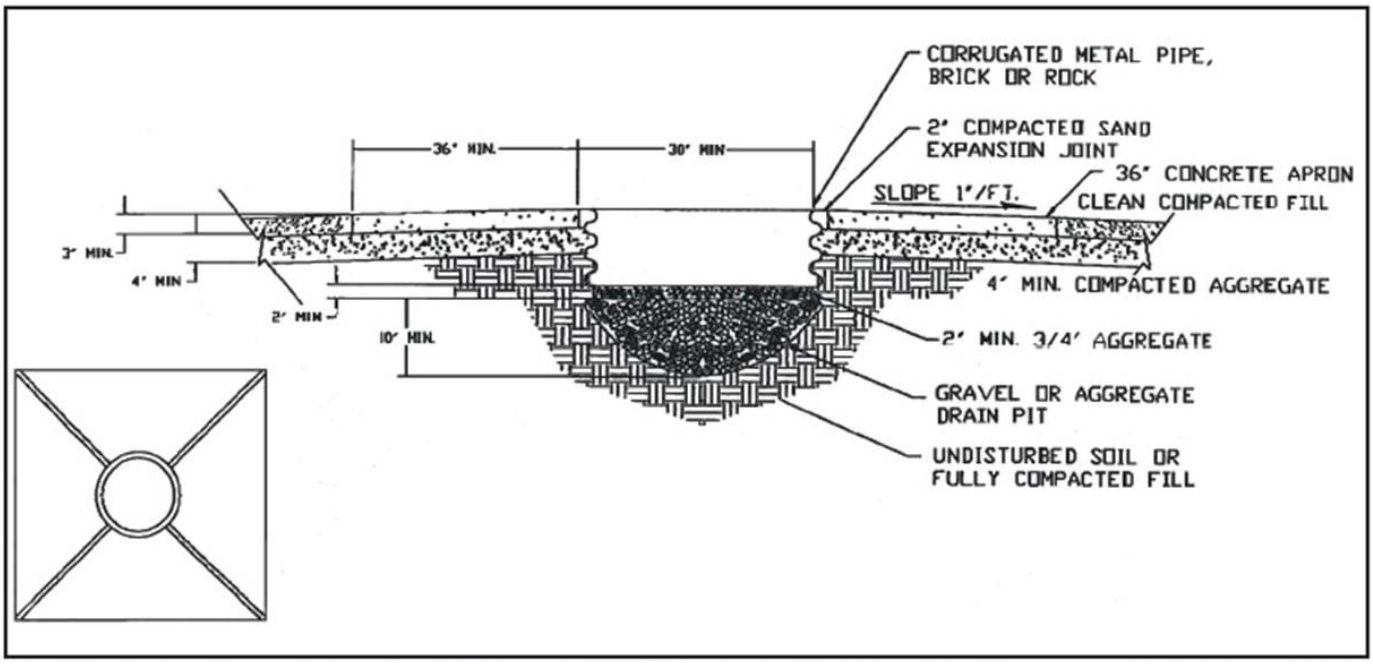
Wildlife oriented recreation is within the mission of HRWMA and it has been the tradition of DWR to accommodate hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and camping as long as these activities are done with wise stewardship in mind.

Examples of wise stewardship and abuse are both found at HRWMA. In coming months, the DWR institute policies that promote wise stewardship by recreationists.

While camping is allowed, it is not the primary function of wildlife management areas

Wildfire Prevention at Campsites

The DWR will work with Dedicated Hunters, conservation groups and other volunteers to install fire rings that meet State standards for wildfire protection. The approved fire ring design is shown below:



1. Area must be cleared of all combustible material and debris for a minimum of 5' from center of fire pit.
2. Apron should be constructed of concrete, rock, or brick.
3. Corrugated metal pipe can replace rock or brick.
4. Fire pit area must be free of any overhead branches for a distance of 25' or more.